

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5137

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT LOUIS 0294

ROME FOR FODAG, VIENNA FOR IAEA & UNIDO; MONTREAL FOR ICAO;
PARIS FOR UNESCO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID UNDP MP

SUBJECT: CERP 0008: EVALUATION OF UN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

REF: (A) STATE 64907; (B) PORT LOUIS A-044, MARCH 26, 1974

1. FOLLOWING EVALUATION UNDP PROGRAM MAURITIUS KEYED TO REFTEL:

BEGIN LOU:

A) UNDP RESREP IS SENIOR LONG-TIME UN OFFICIAL WHO HAS GOOD AND
CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOM AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL
MISSIONS. HE COORDINATES ALL UN PROGRAMS ON THE ISLAND AND HIS
EXPERIENCE WORKING WITH OTHER UN AGENCIES IS AN INVLAUABLE AID
TO THE UNDP PROGRAM HERE. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN DISASTROUS CYCLONE
STRUCK MAURITIUS, RESREP IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED UNDRO IN GENEVA
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FOR ASSISTANCE. ACCORDING TO UNDP, UNICEF AND IBRD ACTIVELY

PARTICIPATE IN COUNTRY PROGRAMMING.

B) COORDINATION OF EXTERNAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS MAJOR PART OF UNDP PROGRAM MAURITIUS. UNDP PROGRAMMER HAS SAID THAT AS MUCH AS 60 PERCENT OF HIS TIME IS SPENT COORDINATING NON-UNDP PROGRAMS. BUREAUCRATIC DRAG SLOWS DOWN COORDINATION AND GOM APPROVAL BUT GOM IS FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ORIENTED AND COOPERATES WITH COORDINATION EFFORTS. EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE FORMALLY MET WITH RESREP ON TWO OCCASIONS TO DISCUSS COORDINATION OF MULTI-LATERAL AND BILATERAL PROGRAMS AND ELICIT SUGGESTIONS FOR BETTER UTILIZATION OF SMALL USG SELF-HELP AID PROGRAM. INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS ARE HELD FREQUENTLY.

C) DURING CYCLONE DISASTER RELIEF OPERATIONS, RESREP CHAIRED MEETING OF MAJOR RELIEF DONORS, I.E., US, UK, FRANCE, TO COORDINATE RELIEF EFFORTS FROM BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL SOURCES.

D) UNDP COUNTRY PROGRAM IS PREPARED AND CARRIED OUT IN CLOSE CONSULTATIONS WITH GOM OFFICIALS, ESPECIALLY GOM ECONOMIC PLANNING UNIT. NEW FOUR-YEAR ECONOMIC PLAN NOW IN PREPARATION BY EPU IS BEING CAREFULLY MONITORED BY UNDP.

E) EMBOFF HAS DISCUSSED FULL LIST OF PROPOSED PROJECTS WITH UNDP RESREP AND PROGRAMMER AND INFORMALLY DISCUSSES SPECIFIC PROJECTS FROM TIME TO TIME. UNDP EXPERTISE AND PROFESSIONALISM EVIDENT IN COUNTRY PROGRAM PLANNING AND PLAN APPEARS TO BE WELL INTEGRATED INTO DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS OF MAURITIUS. WE HAVE NO SPECIFIC COMMENTS. MAJOR NEW PROPOSALS NOW UNDER WAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. INCREASE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION.
2. IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PENSION SCHEME DRAWN UP EARLIER BY PENSION EXPERT.
3. EQUIP NATIONAL MULTIPURPOSE FISH HATCHERY WHICH SPECIFICALLY WILL INCREASE PRODUCTION OF FRESH WATER SHRIMP.
4. ASSISTANCE FOR CIVIL AVIATION AND METEOROLOGICAL DATA COLLECTIONS AND TRANSMISSION.
5. PROVIDE TWO PORT PILOTS FOR PORT AUTHORITY.
6. CONDUCT A HOUSING STUDY TO ASSIST IN LONG-TERM GOVERNMENT OBJECTIVE OF BUILDING LOW COST, CYCLONE-PROOF HOUSING FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES.
7. INCREASE ASSISTANCE TO NEW BUREAU OF STANDARDS TO ENABLE

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BUREAU TO ASSIST PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR IN QUALITY CONTROL IN ADDITION TO LAW ENFORCEMENT FUNCTION OF THE BUREAU.

8. PROVIDE MANAGER FOR MAURITIUS DEVELOPMENT BANK.
9. PROVIDE PROCUREMENT SPECIALIST TO ASSIST MINISTRY OF EDUCATION IN IMPLEMENTING WORLD BANK/IDA LOAN TO UP-GRADE EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS.

F. IMPLEMENTATION OF UNDP PROJECTS IS HAMPERED PRIMARILY BY SLOWNESS OF GOM BUREAUCRATIC AND DOMESTIC POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS. GOM IS SOPHISTICATED AT SOLICITING AND UTILIZING FOREIGN ASSISTANCE BUT PROPOSED PROJECTS THAT APPEAR TO BE OF VALUE SOMETIMES ARE NOT ACTED UPON BY GOM AND ARE ALLOWED TO DIE. FOR EXAMPLE, A NUTRITIONAL TRAINING PROJECT HAS NOT BEEN AGREED TO BY GOM ALTHOUGH PRELIMINARY STUDIES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED.

G) AS FAR AS THE EMBASSY CAN JUDGE THE REVIEW OF PROJECTS WITH GOVERNMENT AND EXECUTING AGENCIES IS EFFECTIVE. THE UNDP ANNUAL REPORT, A 23-PAGE DOCUMENT, IS COMPLETE AS FAR AS IT GOES. IT IS A PUBLIC DOCUMENT AND, THEREFORE, DOES NOT ADDRESS ITSELF TO PROBLEMS OF COORDINATION WITH THE GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY OR LOCAL POLITICAL CONSIDERATIONS.

H) THERE ARE NO MAJOR PROJECTS SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON WOMEN. THERE ARE SPECIFIC PROJECTS SUCH AS VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR YOUNG WOMEN. DURING 1974 A WOMAN NUTRITIONAL EXPERT FROM WHO AND ANOTHER FROM FAO MADE PRELIMINARY PLANS FOR ESTABLISHING A NUTRITIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM IN MAURITIUS. OTHER UN TECHNICIANS HAVE GENERALLY BEEN MALE. END LOU.

I) BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: EMBASSY HAS NO SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE MATTERS TO FOLLOW UP WITH UNDP. WE NOTE THAT ON THE POLICY LEVEL UNDP MAURITIUS HAS EXPERIENCED CONTINUING DIFFICULTY IN OBTAINING GOM AGREEMENT ON TECHNICIANS UNLESS THEY ARE FROM THE INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT. ACCORDING TO UNDP, OVER HALF THE UN TECHNICIANS NOW IN MAURITIUS ARE FROM THAT AREA. THE PRESENT RESREP, A UK CITIZEN, IS EXPECTED TO RETIRE WITHIN THE NEXT YEAR. THE GENERAL FEELING IS THAT GOM WOULD LIKE TO SEE AN INDIAN REPLACE HIM. CONSIDERING THE NATURE OF RACIAL POLITICS IN THIS MULTI-RACIAL COUNTRY, USUN SHOULD BE AWARE UNDP MAURITIUS IS MOVING FROM A MULTI-NATIONAL
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STAFF TOWARD A STAFF PREDOMINANTLY OF THE SAME RACIAL AND CULTURAL COMMUNITY AS THE MAJORITY POLITICAL PARTY WHICH REPRESENTS INDIAN COMMUNAL INTERESTS. END CONFIDENTIAL;

2. COPY OF UNDP ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1974 WILL BE SENT BY POUCH.
MANHARD

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